



• • • *providing greater opportunity for Alabamians*



building better Alabama communities • • •

Annual Report 2012-2013

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA



ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR

A Message from Governor Robert Bentley

Since becoming Governor in 2011, it has been my mission to expand job opportunities so that every Alabamian who wants to work can get a job that enables them to provide for their families and their futures.

We have made tremendous progress, but there is much to be done and we continue to make jobs the top priority.

In various ways, every agency of state government is contributing to our goal of job growth; but none approach the issue more comprehensively than the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

ADECA's mission—to build better Alabama communities—encompasses a wide range of programs that help communities attract new business and help residents improve skills and find jobs.

This past year, grants administered by ADECA assisted new companies to locate in our state and helped existing companies to expand. The new and expanding businesses created valuable jobs for our residents.

Several ADECA grants helped fund public infrastructure development. This infrastructure serves a business or industry much like the framework that supports a building; you may not see this hidden support, but it is essential to a viable business. Frequently, infrastructure improvements constructed for an initial business will encourage additional businesses to locate or expand in the same area, creating future jobs.

Other grants from ADECA made it possible for out-of-work Alabamians to receive training to qualify for well-paying jobs or for employed workers to learn skills that helped them do their jobs better, making their companies more competitive and their jobs more secure.

Agencies funded by ADECA helped many Alabamians find transportation, child-care services, presentable clothing and the encouragement needed to get and retain employment.

Some of our residents took advantage of other ADECA-funded programs that provided the resources they needed to start and grow a business of their own.

ADECA programs also extend into areas that help strengthen communities in ways that encourage growth and opportunity. Grants were awarded that made our communities and roads safer, improved the quality of life through parks, trails and playgrounds and helped homeowners and businesses save money through numerous energy-efficiency programs.

In the past, when Alabama communities faced special challenges like the devastating storms of April 2011, ADECA employees stepped forward to find resources needed for recovery.

Within the pages of this annual report, you will see many Alabamians speaking for themselves on the value of ADECA programs.

I am proud of our achievements regarding jobs and employment, and my staff and I will continue to do all we can to increase job possibilities and make Alabama a better place to live. I have no doubt that ADECA will remain a key player as we achieve additional successes in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Robert Bentley in black ink.

Robert Bentley
Governor

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA



Jim Byard, Jr.
DIRECTOR

A Message from Director Jim Byard

I often tell folks that the programs administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs benefit every Alabamian.

That is a lot of people—about 4.83 million to be more exact—but I do not consider my assertion about ADECA's impact to be an extraordinarily bold statement.

Consider for a moment the number of programs ADECA administers and the range of issues we address. Our major programs support community and economic development, law enforcement and public safety, energy and fuel conservation, workforce development and education, community recreational facilities and water resource management. Within each broad category are specific grant programs and activities that target needs across Alabama. It is a wide net we cast, but its scope allows us to capture and share valuable resources that improve residents' quality of life.

Some of our duties involve the protection of health and safety. We provide resources that enhance safety on the highways and at home, we help prevent crime and abuse and we give aid to those who are victimized. ADECA contributes to healthier communities, providing access to basic needs like sanitary sewage disposal and safe public water service, and helping Alabama children and adults lead healthier lives by making playgrounds, parks and trails more readily available.

Our programs also contribute to the economic health of communities and residents. We assist with several economic development projects each year in order to expand the number of jobs available. ADECA programs not only help residents find employment, but also to secure basic education and skills training required to qualify for well-paying jobs. We support community programs that encourage self-sufficiency and we help Alabamians stretch their dollars through energy-conservation measures.

In addition to supporting the services of communities and nonprofit-agencies financially, ADECA also transfers valuable equipment and other property declared surplus by the agencies of state and federal government.

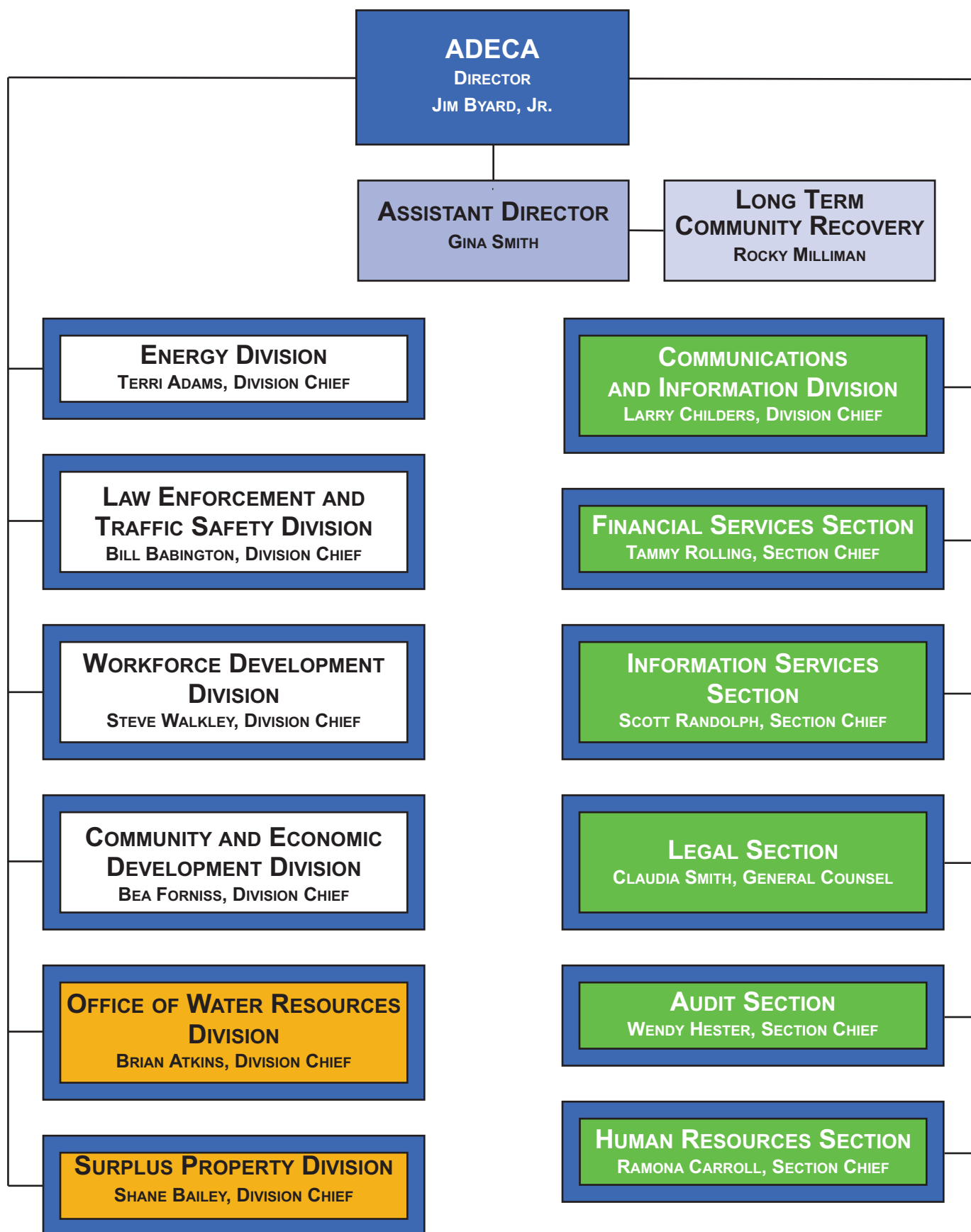
The common denominator of all our programs is the goal of improving the lives of our neighbors across the state—an undertaking to which every ADECA staff member is dedicated. In times of disaster, like the horrible storms of April 2011, our employees have risen to the occasion, working directly with communities and behind the scenes to find resources to help with recovery.

It is enormously satisfying to see our work make a difference, and I am extremely grateful that Governor Robert Bentley has given me the opportunity to lead a department that has such a positive impact. In carrying out this responsibility, I have the privilege to hear some of the life stories of our fellow Alabamians, and to witness a few of the struggles they face. I am always thankful when an ADECA program can make things a little better and give hope for a brighter future.

In the pages of our Annual Report this year, we are sharing a very small sample of the stories shared with us as we carried out our mission to "build better Alabama communities."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim Byard, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Byard, Jr.
ADECA Director



Granting Entities



Support Entities



Other Entities

Organizational Chart as of September 30, 2013

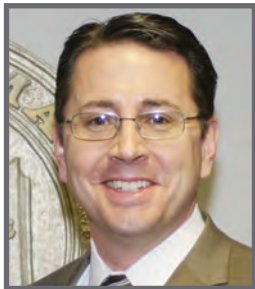
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

The Legislative Oversight Commission was a part of the 1983 Act which created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs—Act 83-194. The commission is composed of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Senate



Arthur Orr



Phil Williams



Billy Beasley



Bryan Taylor



Vacant

House



Chair

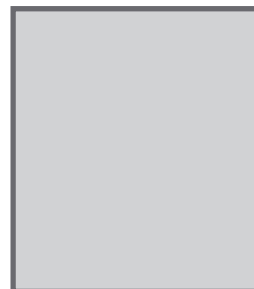
Jack Williams



Steve Hurst



Pebblin Warren



Vacant



Steve Clouse

Community and Economic Development



The Community and Economic Development Division manages a broad scope of grants and activities that include some of ADECA's best-known and most popular programs. Often, CED grant programs can work synergistically, joining forces to strengthen our impact on major projects.

The Community Development Block Grant is a vital, well-known program that helps local governments to construct or improve essential infrastructure for residents.



Alabama cities and counties frequently use CDBG awards to lay the necessary groundwork for industries and businesses to locate or expand in their communities and provide jobs for residents.

Appalachian Regional Commission and Delta Regional Authority grants target specific regions of the state and support many of the same functions as CDBGs, but on a smaller scale. ADECA's two recreation programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails, encourage outdoor activity and attract tourism.

Other CED programs help upgrade the quality of life by promoting and assisting business development, neighborhood improvement and homelessness prevention.



Community Development Block Grant



Community Development Block Grants help address vital needs in Alabama communities

For most of his life, Lamar Aycock had what he called the “prettiest” water. The private wells he relied upon produced clear, good-tasting water at each of the places he had lived in Geneva County.

However, a 15-mile relocation several years ago changed that.

“The wells all pumped rusty water,” he said. “I’m not talking water that was just a little pink; I’m talking red, red water. It was like an Orange Crush drink.”

Not only was it undrinkable, it also stained tubs and sinks and “none of your white clothes were white” after washing.

Aycock tried his best to fix the problem. He drilled a new well—no luck. Then he installed a \$3,500 filter. “It was a joke,” he said. His neighbors, meanwhile, were experiencing the same issues.

Finally, Aycock tried a new strategy to solve the problem: He started attending county



Lamar Aycock, pictured at top of page, said even a new well and filter could not solve water problems at his home near Samson. When CDBG funds extended public water service, the area also gained fire protection.

commission, city council and water board meetings, hoping to get some relief.

"I didn't know anything about water, but I knew even less about politics," he said. "I had never been to a commission meeting before."

It took some time, but eventually Aycock gained more than a sympathetic ear. After several years, county officials applied for and received a Community Development Block Grant to extend public water service to Aycock and 125 others living in the surrounding area who also were contending with impure drinking and bathing water.

The Community Development Block Grant program, administered by ADECA, is probably the most well-know grant program in Alabama. It is also the most popular.

Because Alabama cities and counties can spend CDBG funds for a wide variety of projects that benefit almost every segment of the population, the grants are especially popular with local officials struggling to meet community needs.

CDBG funding can be used to solve dilemmas like the one faced by Mr. Aycock, helping to supply public water to areas where residents' existing water sources are polluted or unfit to drink.

CDBGs also help with other infrastructure improvements including sanitary sewer services, drainage improvements, paving or resurfacing county or city streets, neighborhood rehabilitation, and building community or senior centers.

In Alabama, we award much of our annual CDBG funding, received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on a competitive basis in response to requests from local governments. Without grant funding, typical projects would be too costly for many communities to attempt without borrowing or reducing existing services or programs. ADECA awards competitive grants in three categories: small city, large city and county.

With Governor Robert Bentley's approval, ADECA awarded \$12.7 million in competitive grants in 2013.



CDBG projects are used for multiple purposes to make improvements in Alabama communities.

We awarded an additional \$3.5 million in community enhancement funds to help cities and counties address quality of life projects, and \$82,400 in CDBG funding to assist local governments with planning efforts.

ADECA reserves some of Alabama's annual CDBG allocation for special economic development projects that provide local jobs and strengthen communities. Typical grants help with sewer and water service expansion needed by new or expanding industries, correct drainage problems or improve vehicle or rail access to business locations. In 2013, Governor Bentley awarded \$3.6 million in economic development projects to support job creation in communities throughout Alabama.

In response to the devastation suffered by Alabama communities struck by deadly tornadoes in April 2011, ADECA sought and obtained special CDBG disaster funding. In 2013, we received \$49.1 million to help communities rebuild. ADECA has distributed about \$71.4 million in disaster relief funding since the storms struck the state. Some Alabama cities and counties also received other disaster funding directly from federal agencies.

Thanks to the CDBG program, Mr. Aycock no longer depends on his private well but he keeps it as a reminder of the impure water and the struggle he experienced. He said it also serves another purpose.

"I don't drink with it or wash with it, but I do use it to water my garden," he said.

Appalachian Regional Commission



ARC-funded Shoals Culinary Center launches successful businesses, creates new jobs

When Florence resident Laura Hester decided to expand sales of her homemade breads from a farmer's market stand to supermarket shelves, she didn't have to search far for answers to her questions and concerns.

The Shoals Culinary Center in Florence supplied Hester with the commercial kitchen space necessary for mass production and also guided her through the technicalities of owning and operating a small business.

Today, products produced by Hester's business, Red Gingham Gourmet, can be found in grocery stores in five southern states.

"Since I am able to use a kitchen that already meets health department regulations, I have been able to start my business without a huge overhead," Hester said. "I can concentrate on the growth of



Laura Hester, above, and others have taken advantage of the culinary center to market their products. The center also provides training for food-related careers.

my product without the worry of a large payment on a loan."

Funded in part by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the culinary center – part of the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center – has helped launch numerous food-related businesses in northwest

Alabama that are boosting the local economy by providing jobs, adding to the local tax base and giving consumers more choices.

ARC federal co-chairman Earl F. Gohl lauded the work of the culinary center during a May visit. He credited small home-grown businesses like those spawned by the center as the ones that bring home the bacon when it comes to strengthening local economies.

"When you invest in people that live in your community, the dividends are almost assured that they are going to be here for a long time, and they're going to help you sustain your community," Gohl said. "When you chase smokestacks (outside larger industries), they might be here for a while, but I guarantee you they'll leave some day."

Gohl's comments mirrored the contents of a recent book, *Best Practices in Rural Incubation: Successful Programs in Small Communities* which used the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center as an example of how to help develop and nurture small businesses into successful, job-producing enterprises.

The culinary center also includes a culinary academy that teaches food-preparation basics to students who intend to seek careers as chefs or other food-related careers. The program, operated in conjunction with Northwest Shoals Community College, makes a major attempt to draw students who are having a hard time in school but demonstrate potential.

Chequetta Shaw said while she considers herself a good cook, the school taught her that being a good cook is more than serving appetizing dishes.

"You learn how not to kill people," she said referring to the food safety practices that are stressed.

"There is a whole lot more that goes into food preparation than people realize," she said. "There is a whole lot of knowledge that you gain in this class. I really thank all those involved in this



program for providing me with this opportunity."

Within Alabama, ADECA coordinates grants from ARC, an agency that was created by Congress in 1965 to improve living conditions and quality of life in the Appalachian mountain area. The commission's jurisdiction includes all or parts of 13 states. Thirty-seven Alabama counties are part of the ARC district and are qualified to receive funding.

In 2013, 56 grants amounting to \$5.2 million were awarded in Alabama for numerous projects including grants to help schools replace computers that were destroyed or damaged by the April 2011 tornadoes. ARC grants also were used to improve infrastructure necessary for industries to build or expand and create new jobs. Other ARC grants helped to improve education, stimulate economic development and tourism, build and improve roads, conserve energy, improve technology and improve overall quality of life and health by providing water and sewer services to communities.

Delta Regional Authority



DRA funding assists Alabama in providing jobs and improving economic outlook in Black Belt

While it could not be measured on a seismograph, a ground disturbance in northwest Wilcox County registered in the hearts of many who are optimistic about a brighter future for Alabama's Black Belt region.

GD Copper U.S.A., a manufacturer of copper tubing, broke ground and in May opened its 400,000-square-foot plant near the town of Pine Hill. When completed, the facility will provide jobs for 400 people in a county that for years has had one of the highest unemployment rates in Alabama.

Officials in Wilcox County said GD Copper is the first industry to make an indentation in county soil in the 45 years since MacMillan Bloedel built a paper mill, a facility now owned by International Paper Co.

"It's the hope for the future of Wilcox County," John Clyde Riggs said of GD Copper.

Riggs, executive director of the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission, a planning and development organization whose functions include attracting industry and business to the region, said the presence of a large employer has sparked enthusiasm in the area along with antici-



Gov. Bentley, pictured above and flanked by company and state and federal officials, comments on GD Copper's contribution to the community. Pine Hill Mayor Roberta Jordan, left, expects the manufacturer will have tremendous positive effect on the local economy.

pation that the county's economic climate will be significantly improved.

Pine Hill Mayor Roberta Jordan said that slight economic tremors already are being felt in the community and surrounding areas.

"The biggest impact right now is from the construction and the people involved with that," Jordan said. "That's helped a lot. We can tell a lot of difference in our sales tax collections."

The mayor of the town of 950 people said there has also been talk of some retail businesses opening in the vicinity to cater to the plant's

workforce “but there haven’t been any announcements.”

Governor Robert Bentley announced the industry, saying that GD Copper carries with it the potential to boost employment in Alabama’s Black Belt Region and provide momentum for future development in an area that has long suffered high unemployment and declining populations because of lack of services and economic opportunities.

The Delta Regional Authority realized the significance of GD Copper when it agreed to Alabama’s recommendation to award a \$311,953 grant to the Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority for land acquisition for the plant.

Chris Masingill, DRA federal co-chair, said the Wilcox grant was part of a commitment by the federal agency to assist job development in the Delta region.

“It is a great investment for Wilcox County, but it will benefit the entire region, and that’s why it is one of the most important projects in a very long time that we have invested in,” Masingill said. “Just by looking at the massive size of the plant itself you can really see in a very tangible way the impact it is going to have on these communities.”

Riggs said the presence of GD Copper also has brought about an awareness that a large industry in your backyard does not automatically equate to a job; workers must have skills even to be considered for employment.

“There is an understanding now that in order to get a job you have to have job training,” Riggs said.

“Those jobs don’t just come to you; you have to prepare for them.”

Congress created the Delta Regional Authority in 2000 to improve economic conditions in the Mississippi delta and outlying areas that share the commonality of impoverished communities. The region extends into eight eastern U.S. states and

covers 252 counties and parishes representing 10 million people. Twenty Alabama counties are part of the DRA area.

DRA operates as a state-federal partnership; in Alabama, ADECA administers the program and the department’s director represents the governor on most DRA matters.

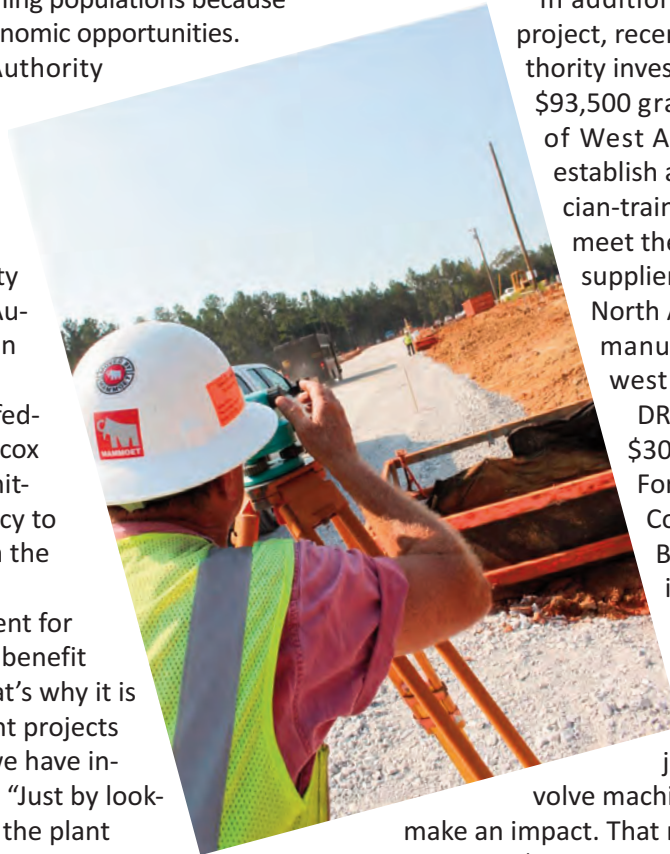
In addition to the GD Copper project, recent Delta Regional Authority investments included a \$93,500 grant to the University of West Alabama in Livingston to establish an automotive technician-training program to help meet the needs of regional suppliers of Mercedes-Benz North America automobile manufacturing plant in west Alabama.

DRA also provided \$300,000 to the town of Fort Deposit in Lowndes County, also part of the Black Belt Region, to improve an industrial park for future industry.

Alabama and DRA officials believe that jobs do not have to involve machinery, nuts and bolts to make an impact. That recognition helped the state secure a \$150,000 DRA grant to fund site preparation and provide infrastructure improvements for a riverfront hotel in Phenix City. The city, aided by a recreation grant administered by ADECA, is attempting to capitalize on potential tourism dollars resulting from increased interest in water sports like white water rafting, canoeing and kayaking on the adjacent Chattahoochee River.

The river sports were made possible by the demolition of several dams along the river, which once played a role in operating textile mills and other factories in Phenix City and its sister city across the river, Columbus, Ga.

The availability of white water sports is expected to draw 60,000 to 100,000 visitors to the area annually and provide support for tourist-related businesses.



Community Services Block Grant



Community Services grants enable agencies to provide bright path for many in Alabama

When Lesley Schaniel walked through the doors of the Community Action Agency of South Alabama office in Daphne, she thought of herself as a “lost woman.”

Having no home, little education and three boys to rear, Schaniel came to the agency to fulfill a job-training requirement needed for her to continue receiving federal assistance with food and housing through the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

That day marked a turning point in her life, Schaniel said.

She found herself interviewing for a temporary 30-hour-per-week job offered as part of an on-the-job-training program for recipients of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

“I never worked in an office environment, and I was thinking, they’re not going to take me or let me stay,” Schaniel said. “But then they said, ‘When can you start?’”

Long before Schaniel entered the agency, a number of local, state and federal programs and activities were brought together to make this



Lesley Schaniel, above, received a boost from the Community Action Agency of South Alabama to help her regain a footing in life. This emblem on an agency car explains its mission.

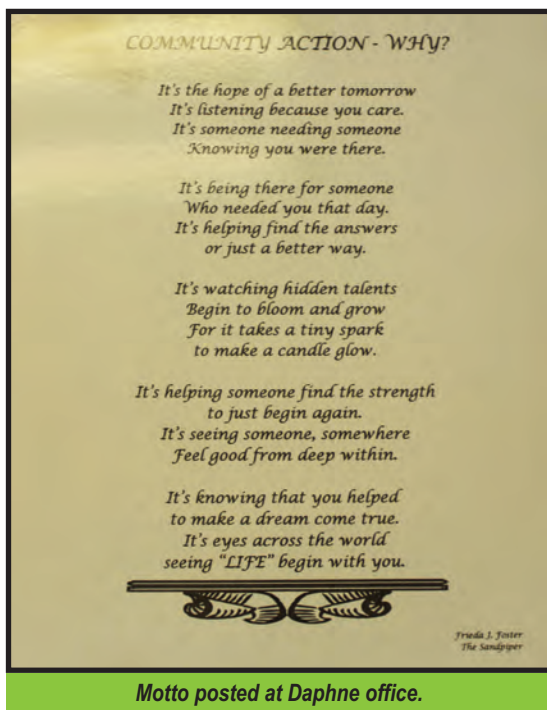
opportunity available. A key program was the Community Service Block Grant, administered at the state level by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

This grant program provides significant support for the work of the Community Action Agency of South Alabama and 20 similar agencies located across the state. ADECA receives CSBG funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help low-income residents achieve self-sufficiency through a variety of programs to mitigate the effects of poverty and address potential barriers to success. Helping residents like Schaniel develop the skills needed for a job with a livable wage is the most effective route to self-sufficiency.

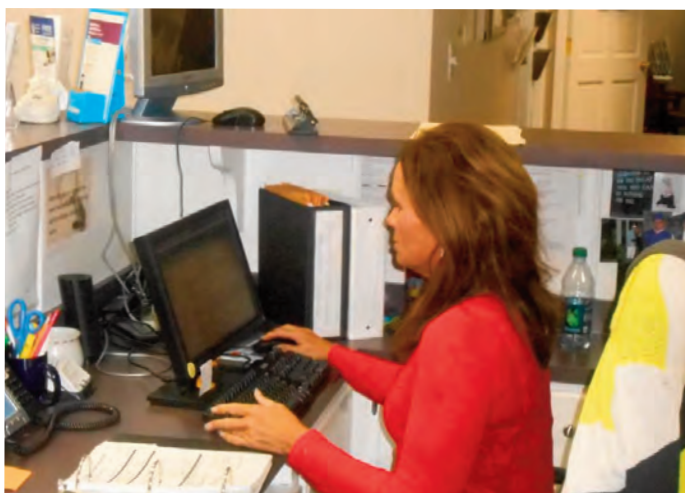
Agency Executive Director Cassandra Boykin said Schaniel was quiet and reserved when she started; but soon, an outgoing, and friendly personality emerged.

"She saw how giving back and assisting others can give you a positive outlook," Boykin said.

Schaniel rotated around different departments as part of the job-training program, receiving guidance from several mentors in the agency. She also received clothing from the agency's thrift store and learned professional and computer skills through classes offered by the agency.



Motto posted at Daphne office.



Schaniel works fulltime performing several duties at the agency.

"I started believing in myself simply because they believed in me," Schaniel said.

One qualification she lacked was a high school diploma. With the encouragement of Boykin and other staffers, Schaniel began taking a GED preparation class and studying while at work. In April 2013, she passed the exam and earned a GED.

These days, Schaniel is off all federal housing and food assistance and is working full time as the agency's receptionist, but her aspirations do not end there. She is enrolled in college and working toward earning an associate's degree in business.

"I'm no longer lost," she said. "I'm not sure exactly where I'm going or how fast I'll get there; all I know for sure is I want to be better and smarter, and it's all because of this one group of people in Daphne, Alabama."

Community action agencies in Alabama offer a variety of services depending on the specific needs of the communities they serve. Services may include employment support, parenting classes, transitional housing, summer youth programs, financial literacy programs and emergency food and shelter.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, ADECA administered Community Service Block Grants totaling \$11.7 million; during the same period, community action agencies served 256,591 Alabama residents who needed assistance and met the qualification requirements. More than 34,000 received food assistance, 21,000 received child-care assistance and more 12,000 received health-care assistance.

Recreation and Conservation



ADECA, recreation alliance helping make state go-to destination for mountain bike adventures

When John MacMenamin, an avid mountain biker from Port St. Lucie, Fla., heard about a new mountain biking trail in Alabama near Anniston, he knew he had to experience it. Coldwater Mountain didn't let him down.

"By far it's the best trail we have ever been on," declared MacMenamin, who along with three other friends made the pilgrimage last autumn. "On a scale of one to 10, I have to give it a 9, but I don't know if a 10 exists. It was well planned; the trails are wide and well signed."

Nature furnished the mountain and the decor, but it took the combined effort of numerous groups to supply the remaining elements. The 4,000-acre mountain was purchased in the 1990s by the state's Forever Wild program managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Volunteers lead by a regional group of the International Mountain Bike Association designed and built the first 25 miles of what

may eventually be 90 miles of trail.

ADECA's Recreation and Conservation Unit also contributed to the success of the project with three grants totaling \$750,000. The unit manages two recreational grant programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails program, that are used to build or maintain outdoor recreational facilities like Coldwater Mountain.

In the process of becoming a magnet for mountain bikers throughout the nation, Coldwater Mountain is also making an impact on local businesses, bringing economic benefits to the area.



Coldwater Mountain is becoming an important destination for mountain bikers.

MacMenanim and his friends demonstrate the impact of visiting mountain bikers.

"We're supporting the economy," he said. "Two of us are staying at Cheaha (Mountain State Park), we're staying at the Hampton Inn in Oxford and we've eaten at a restaurant every night plus we have done some local shopping for our supplies."

Patrick Wigley, owner of Wig's Wheels, a bicycle shop in Anniston, said there is an obvious difference in his business since Coldwater Mountain opened. He said sales of full-suspension bikes jumped at the beginning, leveled off and now hold steady.

Wigley, himself, might be an unnoticed economic statistic. Anniston's proximity to numerous mountain biking venues made him pack his bags and move from Nashville to Anniston, where he was stationed while in the U.S. Army.

Doug Strautman and Coldwater Mountain have been neighbors for years. Strautman lives just below the mountain in Oxford and hiked it nearly a dozen times until seeing all the riders convinced him to trade in his hiking boots for handlebars.

"I think we have a gem in our backyard and the people of the county are only really beginning to realize it," Strautman said. "One of the things that is so grand about it is its diversity. Anyone from a brand new cyclist to the expert will find something to challenge them here."

Similar projects aided by ADECA Recreation grants have been undertaken across the state to meet the needs of mountain biking, an increasingly popular sport that has existed for only about 30 years. Oak Mountain State Park near Birmingham and Chewacla State Park near Auburn have used the combination of state land, ADECA grants and volunteers to build top caliber mountain biking trails.

ADECA recreation grants are not limited to mountain biking. In 2013, ADECA administered grants of \$2.24 million for 19 Recreational Trails Projects in the state. Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program \$785,350 in grants



Doug Strautman, who lives in nearby Oxford, likes having Coldwater Mountain in his backyard.

were awarded for 17 projects.

Those projects ranged from a \$50,000 LWCF grant to assist Phenix City in developing an aquatic playground at one of its parks to a \$100,000 Recreational Trails grant used to construct a multi-use trail for the city of Blountsville.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a program of the National Park Service funded from oil and gas lease revenue generated on federal lands. Each state selects projects to support, but federal authorization is required before they are funded. Recipients are required to provide matches equal to grant amounts.

Recreational Trails is a program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and is intended to construct or maintain trails for use by pedestrians as well as motorized and non-motorized vehicles and horses. A trail advisory committee with representatives of each type of authorized trail use helps select projects. ADECA coordinates the funding and selection process with approval by the governor.

State Small Business Credit Initiative



Small business loan program encourages lending and helps companies grow and hire employees

In tough economic times, even a good credit rating may not be good enough. To take some of the risk out of lending and to encourage small-business development and job creation, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 was approved.

The Act led to the creation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative, a public-private partnership that provides lending institutions with additional security and borrowers with the capital they require to grow.

Administered by ADECA, the program has provided loans averaging about \$594,000 for small businesses to use for start-up costs, equipment, working capital and more—expenditures designed to provide jobs and stimulate the economy.

In addition to encouraging loans to worthy but less established businesses, the program is designed to get funds into the hands of borrowers quickly with a minimum of red tape

Alex Jones, vice president and coordinator for the state credit initiative program at United Bank

Alex Jones, shown in top photo, said the initiative has been popular at the Atmore bank where he works.

in Atmore, said the flexibility and streamlining of the loan program allows his bank to “service the borrower in an expedited manner.”

By the summer of 2013, Jones’s bank had provided more than 30 loans.

“Since we began the program in 2012 we have loaned \$2.4 million that has resulted in retaining or creating 147 jobs,” Jones said.

The State Small Business Credit Initiative provides three main options to assist lenders: capital access, loan guaranty and loan participation. The options provide flexibility to meet the needs of both lenders and borrowers.

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)

On September 27, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 to help increase credit availability for small businesses. The Act created the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) and the State of Alabama was approved by the Treasury for \$31,301,498. The Community and Economic Development (CED) Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is responsible for implementing and managing the SSBCI program in Alabama.

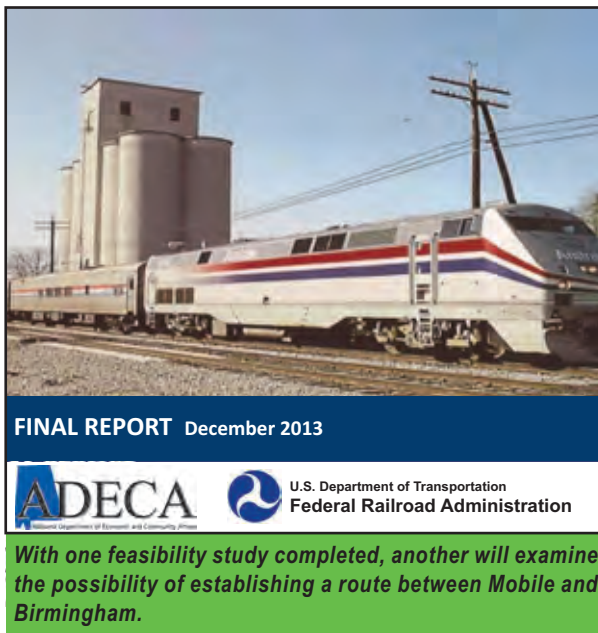
Eligible Programs

Corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships, as well as non-profits and cooperatives are eligible to participate in the

Other CED Programs

The **Alabama Advantage** program reaches visitors and tourists and touts the benefits of Alabama as a place to live, work or settle down after retirement. The program conducts an annual winter exposition in Orange Beach to highlight Alabama communities and the state's attractions and advantages.

The **Passenger Rail Feasibility** study, supported by a federal grant, is examining the possibility of restoring passenger rail service between Birmingham and Mobile with stops in Montgomery and other locations along the route. ADECA along with the cities of Birmingham, Montgomery and Mobile, regional planning agencies and other state agencies are conducting feasibility studies to determine whether to re-establish



lish all or parts of the route dissolved in 1995.

The **Office of Minority Business Enterprise** provides assistance and guidance to small minority and women-owned businesses. The office issues certifications that may assist these businesses to bid certain contracts.

The **Alabama Enterprise Zone Act** provides tax incentives for businesses that locate within designated "Enterprise Zones" that have been established to assist economically depressed communities. Twenty-five counties and three

cities make up Alabama's Enterprise Zones.

The **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** helps communities and neighborhoods where homes are being lost to foreclosure and abandon-



The Neighborhood Stabilization Program helps prevent houses from being abandoned for long periods, and becoming neighborhood eyesores and targets of vandals. Instead houses are renovated and placed back on the market for qualified home buyers.

ment. Using NSP funding, houses are bought, renovated if necessary, and sold to qualified buyers. In many instances in Alabama, organizations like Habitat for Humanity acquire the houses and make them available for their clients.

Emergency Solutions Grants help upgrade, maintain and operate emergency shelters for the homeless and victims of domestic violence. The program exists to assist persons in danger of losing their homes and to ensure persons without a place to live are afforded some type of shelter.



Yolanda Sullivan is CEO of YWCA Central Alabama which receives Emergency Solutions funding to serve several counties in the Birmingham area.

Energy



ADECA Energy programs assist Alabamians in conserving energy and saving money

After a 36-year career at NASA, retired engineer Tony O'Neil and his wife, Cozette, wanted to employ technology to reduce the operating expenses for Cozy Cove Farm, their 47-acre commercial llama and alpaca farm in Madison County.

"A lot of the missions I worked on at NASA involved solar panels, so I've always been infatuated with solar energy," O'Neil said. "I looked at our farm's power bills and I figured they were only going to increase in the future. So I started looking around at ways to use solar energy."

O'Neil's solar dream became reality in 2013 thanks in part to a \$142,500 loan through AlabamaSAVES, a program of ADECA's Energy Division that helps businesses finance energy-saving upgrades to reduce operating expenses. The loan allowed O'Neil to install a solar power system that generates more than enough power to operate the farm and charge electric vehicles.

O'Neil said he learned about AlabamaSAVES while researching options. After a few phone calls, he filled out an application and received approval



Tony and Cozette O'Neil have been able to produce more electricity than they consume by installing a solar energy system at their farm in Madison County. The O'Neils operate a commercial llama and alpaca farm near Gurley.

for a loan at a rate that was much lower than traditional business loans.

"I'm glad AlabamaSAVES is around to help," he said.

Cozy Cove Farm combined a 1-percent-interest-rate AlabamaSAVES loan with a federal tax credit and a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to finance the project. The farm's solar array was installed in February 2013 and is producing plenty of electricity to power the farm.

Loans made through AlabamaSAVES are designed to create energy-efficiency savings that exceed loan repayments, creating positive

cash flow for the business. The Cozy Cove installation is producing so much energy that the farm is generating a negative power bill and O'Neil has been able to sell excess electricity to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Cozy Cove Farm is just one of a range of businesses across the state that have taken advantage of AlabamaSAVES loans, including large and small industrial companies, car dealerships, hotels and retail businesses. Since awarding the first loan in June 2011, AlabamaSAVES has funded \$20 million in energy upgrades. The businesses are now saving more than \$5 million in annual energy costs.

ADECA established AlabamaSAVES with funds made available to the state by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program. Loans of \$50,000 to \$4 million are available to help Alabama commercial and industrial businesses finance energy-saving improvements. Projects are evaluated on potential for sustainable energy savings, cost savings, renewable energy generation, emissions reductions and job creation and retention.

The AlabamaSAVES program is one of several implemented by ADECA to help Alabamians save

energy and lower power costs.

When customers of the Wiregrass Electric Cooperative in southeast Alabama receive unusually high energy bills, the cooperative can conduct a home energy audit to reveal the causes. Homeowners with limited resources, however, are sometimes unable to afford the repairs or upgrades needed to correct the problems.

To help their low-income customers in Dale, Geneva and Houston counties, the cooperative formed a partnership with the Wiregrass Habitat

for Humanity.

The partnership began in late 2010 with a zero-interest-

"I'm glad AlabamaSAVES is around to help."

**Tony O'Neil
Llama Farmer
Gurley, Alabama**

rate loan program to assist qualifying customers to make repairs that would reduce energy use. Homeowners are referred to the program when an energy audit reveals an issue. If a home meets the qualifications, Habitat can complete improvements in a few days and at a discounted price through its network of vendors, contractors and volunteers.



The O'Neils generate income by selling excess electricity to TVA.

In January 2013, ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. presented a \$50,000 grant to the cooperative to assist customers who are unable to repay a loan. To date, eight homes have received energy up-



grades funded by the grant with eight more expected to receive assistance by August 2014.

ADECA administers the Alabama Weatherization Assistance Program to provide low-income residents throughout the state with long-term relief from high utility bills by making their homes more energy efficient. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides one-time payments to help low-income families cope with high heating and cooling bills.

The Energy Division also helps government agencies and schools cut energy costs. The division is leading the effort to meet a goal set by Governor Bentley to reduce energy consumption in state-owned facilities by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2015.

The Energy Efficient Retrofits of K-12 Schools Program helps public schools cut expenses by installing energy-efficient retrofits including heating, ventilation and air-conditioning replacements and upgrades, lighting, insulation, and energy management controls. Over the years, the program has distributed more than \$6 million in funding to retrofit 125 schools generating savings of more than \$1.3 million each year.

A crews pictured above, adds weatherization measures to cut energy costs for Snow Ann Fluellen of Kinston, Alabama. The project was conducted in part by the Wiregrass Electric Cooperative which serves much of southeast Alabama.



The Policy Academy on Enhancing Industry Through Energy Efficiency was an effort to help Alabama industries become more energy efficient. Led by the Governor's Office and ADECA's Energy Division, the academy brought together dozens of state government and private industry representatives to develop ideas about how state government can assist industries and companies to cut expenses through voluntary energy efficiency measures at their facilities.

Alabama adopted the first mandatory statewide commercial and residential energy codes in 2012. ADECA provides training about the codes to local government officials, builders, designers and other construction professionals throughout the state.

Office of Water Resources



Office of Water Resources works to assure water remains plentiful in Alabama

Alabama's pulp and paper industry relies heavily on the state's waters for production, so at the first sign of drought, Roy McAuley takes notice.

McAuley is executive director of the Alabama Pulp and Paper Council, a trade group representing industrial mills in the state. According to the council, Alabama is home to 13 pulp and paper mills employing 7,000 people with thousands more employed in wood and other related industries creating a total economic impact of \$14 billion. The majority of mills are built along Alabama's waterways.

"Our mills are dependent on Alabama's waterways for our water supply for production and waste assimilation," McAuley said.

McAuley said a worst-case scenario during a drought would be a temporary shutdown of a mill due to low water, putting thousands of Alabamians out of work indefinitely.

Unlike other natural disasters that strike with sudden fury, droughts come slowly and silently. In addition to harming the pulp and paper industry, drought can negatively affect crop yields, create shortages for local water systems, reduce power

Pictured above, Roy McAuley at his office in Montgomery with the Alabama River in the background.

production and make waterways unsuitable for recreation and other activities.

As part of its mission to ensure that Alabama's water resources are managed in the best interest of the state, ADECA's Office of Water Resources works with local water systems, farmers, reservoir operators and industries during droughts to encourage water conservation and to mitigate water shortages and other negative impacts like crop failure and job loss.

In 2013, Water Resources developed and released a new drought management plan to guide the office as it monitors water availability and alerts Alabamians when proactive steps need to be taken to lessen the impact of drought.

ADECA completed the drought plan with input from the Alabama Water Resources Commission, the Alabama Drought Planning and Assessment Team, the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Water Policy and Management and other groups with an interest in Alabama's water resources.

The updated plan incorporated lessons

learned from the 2007 drought to better prepare the state to cope with future dry periods. McAuley said a couple of mills came close to idling during that time.

“We haven’t lost any production because we’ve learned how to prepare and manage the situation to where it works for the mills,” McAuley said.

McAuley is part of the Monitoring and Impact Group. He said bringing representatives of state agencies, water systems, reservoir operators and other groups to the same table to monitor conditions enables quick and easy communication that would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

“OWR provides a communication outlet so we know what is going on and we are in constant contact with water reservoir operators and others,” McAuley said. “We can keep up with current conditions and anticipate the impact of a drought.”

In addition to drought planning and monitoring, OWR is playing a leading role in the development of a statewide water management plan. OWR is part of the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group established by Governor Bentley to recommend a framework and process for developing a durable water management plan.

OWR also continues to provide technical analysis of water allocation issues related to the long-standing dispute with Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over water withdrawals



Paper manufacturers like the Boise plant in south Alabama rely heavily on water for their operations and manufacturing needs.

from Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona in Georgia. OWR Division Chief Brian Atkins represented Alabama at Congressional hearings about the Corps of Engineers management of the lakes, which are a part of water basins that flow into Alabama.

Another OWR unit helps protect residents from potential devastation caused by flooding. The Floodplain Management Unit comprises two Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded programs: The National Flood Insurance Program and the Flood Mapping Program. The unit, with support from FEMA, creates maps of the state to designate flood-risk zones. The maps are used by the Flood Insurance Program, which makes insurance available and affordable to owners of homes and buildings in areas at risk of flooding.

Major steps specified in the drought management plan include:

- **Gather input from OWR, the Alabama State Climatologist, and the Monitoring and Impact Group of the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team and submit Alabama’s data for the U.S. Drought Monitor Map. A rotating group of authors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Drought Mitigation Center produce the map. Officials use the drought map, posted each week at www.drought.gov, as a primary tool in developing federal disaster declarations.**
- **Maintain a drought information center available to the public on ADECA’s website.**
- **Issue Alabama drought declaration advisories based on streamflow levels, rainfall, soil moisture and other drought-related data collected and analyzed by the Monitoring and Impact Group.**
- **Analyze potential drought impacts on residents, agriculture, habitat, water recreation and industries reliant on water.**

Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety



Yellow Dot program among LETS projects helping to make communities and roads safer

Two years ago, you would have been hard pressed to convince Vivian Howard, 72, that carrying a copy of her medical history in her vehicle's glove box could be more important than carrying a spare tire in the trunk.

Not anymore.

While driving home from a funeral in March 2013, Howard, who is a diabetic, began to lose consciousness on the 12-mile drive back to her Homewood residence. She does not remember much about the drive, but she does remember waking up.

"When I opened my eyes, there were paramedics around me," she said. "I had been steadily bumping the curb as I drove and then eventually blacked out and crashed."

Because Howard had taken advantage of the statewide Yellow Dot program, first-responders had immediate access to her medical information helping them quickly assess her condition and initiate appropriate procedures. Howard has become an ambassador for the program, telling friends and family how important it is to sign up and how grateful she is to those who made the service available.

Howard learned about the Yellow Dot program in November 2012 at a presentation at her church. Little did she know that just a few months later, a medical information envelope



Vivian Howard, top photo, with her husband, has become an advocate for Yellow Dot after a vehicle crash. A recipient is photographed as a procedure of the Yellow Dot identification.

stored in her glove compartment would help save her life.

Supported by ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division, the free program has grown steadily since it began in 2009; as of January 2014, the service is available in 63 of Alabama's 67 counties.

As part of the program, a yellow dot decal is placed on a vehicle's back window to alert first responders to check the glove compartment for a special envelope with medical history and

prescription information. Access to a crash victim's medical background enables first responders and emergency room personnel to provide more effective care.

Lora Weaver with the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office serves as the Yellow Dot program coordinator. She started the program in Etowah County and has led the effort to expand it to other counties.

In 2013, ADECA awarded a \$75,000 grant to support development of the Yellow Dot program. Funding comes from the State of Alabama Traffic Safety Trust Fund, an account that receives fines paid by individuals found guilty of driving without a license or with a suspended or revoked license.

In addition to Yellow Dot, ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division supports many other programs that provide protection and save lives.

Domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse victims throughout Alabama receive vital help from local nonprofit shelters supported by ADECA grants. The agencies provide safe shelter for victims and their children, help prepare victims for court appearances and help them secure protection orders. Some also provide forensic interviewers who question and examine young victims in non-threatening environments designed to help them feel at ease. ADECA administered grants totaling \$9,791,873 to support victims of violence and abuse statewide in fiscal year 2013.

Following a kidnapping incident in Midland City on January 29, 2013, ADECA responded with a \$117,849 Victims of Crime Act grant to the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center in Dothan. Children onboard a school bus witnessed the murder of their bus driver and the kidnapping of a fellow classmate. Sherryl Walker, SEACAC executive director, focused the center's attention on helping the children recover from the traumatic event.

"From the beginning of the hostage situation, the entire CAC Board and staff were ready to assist

however needed," she said. "Although the media attention was on [the kidnapped child] and his safety, we were also concerned about the other 20 students who were on the bus and witnessed the murder [of the bus driver] and the kidnapping."

The ADECA grant was used to give the children both group and individual counseling to supplement other therapies such as painting, drawing and spending time with therapy dogs.

The LETS Division administers many other programs that protect lives, reduce injuries and make communities safer.

Juvenile Justice programs support local efforts to help troubled Alabama youth turn their lives around, make wiser decisions and become productive citizens.

ADECA administered grants totaling \$770,688 to support Juvenile Justice programs statewide in fiscal year 2013.

Highway safety campaigns including "Click it or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" places more officers on patrol to enforce seatbelt and sobriety laws on Alabama highways. ADECA administered grants totaling \$6,742,333 to support traffic safety initiatives in fiscal year 2013.

Drug and violent crime task forces around the state, supported by ADECA funding, arrest and assist in the prosecution of drug offenders. Over the years, the units have seized large quantities of illegal drugs and dismantled dangerous methamphetamine laboratories, which pose a threat to both neighborhoods and the environment. ADECA administered grants totaling \$2,578,601 to support drug and violent crime task forces in fiscal year 2013.

LETS administers grants to help state and local law enforcement agencies purchase new or replacement ballistic vests that can protect officers from both gunfire and knife attacks. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, officers who are shot while wearing a protective vest are 14 times more likely to survive the wound than officers not wearing any protection. ADECA administered grants totaling \$31,645 to support the purchase of bulletproof vests in fiscal year 2013.



Long Term Community Recovery



ADECA program helps Alabama communities arise from aftermath of devastating tornadoes



Volunteers from Alabama State University repair computers for use in Holt community.

Leaders in the Holt community thought their community needed rejuvenation and they developed plans that included building a learning center to provide literacy classes and assist students struggling in school.

Then, in April 2011, a tornado that ripped through Tuscaloosa headed straight for Holt, bringing devastation to a community that already had its share of issues: high unemployment, an aging population, buildings in disrepair and perhaps a lost sense of direction.

Instead of throwing in the towel, the community became more determined than ever to see their plans carried through. In the aftermath of the storm, Holt discovered some new allies.

ADECA's Long Term Community Recovery program, created by Gov. Robert Bentley to assist areas struck by tornadoes in 2011, worked with Holt to secure the resources needed for recovery.

Since the disaster, ADECA has provided more than \$10 million in specially obtained Community Development Block Grants to assist the community with infrastructure repairs and cleanup and demolition of damaged buildings. Many other organizations and volunteers have contributed to Holt's recovery and have amplified ADECA's support.

“Before the long-term recovery, we had already identified some needs for the community. This gave us an opportunity to merge those organizations together not only to rebuild and revitalize the area devastated by the tornado, but the whole community,” said Ben Horton, president of Holt in Action, an organization created to revitalize the community. “It’s been not just a community, but a statewide effort.”

To provide computers needed for the learning center, ADECA’s Surplus Property Division and Alabama State University in Montgomery joined with America Responds With Love, a nationwide non-profit humanitarian foundation. Student members of the ASU chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals repaired surplus computers collected by ADECA and Surplus Division employees transported the computers for delivery to Holt.

Auburn University’s Urban Studio provided design ideas for the creative center and students from the nearby University of Alabama pitched in to assist where necessary.

UA student Nick Haigler said assisting the community was not a hard decision for him and others who are active members of the campus’ branch of the Wesley Foundation.



Holt in Action members are storing equipment until a learning center opens. Below left, Donnie Barton of ADECA’s Surplus Property unloads equipment for Holt.



storm and improve residents’ outlook, the America Responds with Love organization arranged for flowers and bulbs to be delivered to Rainsville, Ider, Mentone, Guntersville and Jackson County. The plants are improving the appearance of landscapes made ugly by the storms.

“I live in Holt, and I saw there was a need in the community that the students could get plugged in to. I found out about Holt in Action, started attending meetings and looked for ways for us to be involved,” he said.

“Community involvement is very important for any student organization,” said Derrick O’Neal, one of several ASU students who assisted in the computer project. “I felt we needed to get personally involved because it is something that we need to be doing not only because of what the community has gone through, but to let the community know that we are here to help people obtain computer skills.”

ADECA’s Long Term Community Recovery team provided assistance and is helping determine ongoing needs in other areas hit by the 2011 tornadoes including Cordova, Hackleburg, Rainsville, Phil Campbell and Guntersville as well as DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Marion and Tuscaloosa counties.

Even cosmetic measures have had a role in the recovery. To erase some of the scars left by the

Surplus Property



Surplus Property provides furnishings to help a new high school in Tuscaloosa County

Finding the right equipment and furniture for a big move can be a frustrating and expensive endeavor for anyone, especially when it involves a school. Finding cost-effective ways to get quality products can be even more difficult.

Fortunately for Brookwood High School near Tuscaloosa, ADECA's Surplus Property Division had much of what was needed on hand and at an affordable price. The school recently completed construction of its new high school and needed desks and classroom office equipment for each teacher.

"It's been wonderful for us," said Thad Fitzpatrick, Brookwood assistant principal. "We purchased around 65 pieces of furniture from the Surplus Property Division and got both quality and quantity for a much better price than buying new."

Fitzpatrick said that going for all new desks would have been much more expensive for the school system and would have been much harder to purchase.

Fitzpatrick said the former school was built back in 1957 and a lot of the furniture in it was that age



Thad Fitzpatrick used a rental truck to transfer equipment from ADECA's Surplus Property warehouse to Brookwood High School. Fitzpatrick combed the warehouse for needed equipment and furniture.

or older. He added that the move to the new school will happen some time in 2014. He also thinks the school will be doing even more business with Surplus Property later.

"The folks at Surplus Property were really good to us," he said. "When we need equipment or furniture in the future, it'll be the first place we call."

Surplus Property obtains equipment and supplies from several state and federal agencies, including U.S. military bases around the world. The division also receives items and property abandoned by travelers at security checkpoints of several Southeast airports.

ADECA makes surplus property available year-round to Alabama's local governments and nonprofit agencies and recently added veteran organizations to the list of eligible shoppers.

These agencies and groups are able to stretch

their budgets substantially by purchasing needed equipment for much less than the price for new merchandise.

"The folks at Surplus Property were really good to us. When we need equipment or furniture in the future, it'll be the first place we call."

Thad Fitzpatrick
Assistant Principal
Brookwood High School



Prospective buyers examine heavy equipment before auction.

Typical Surplus Property items include office furniture and equipment, computers, cameras, exercise and kitchen equipment, vehicles, tractors, and sometimes even fire trucks and ambulances.

Federal and state surplus property that is not transferred or sold to government entities or non-profit agencies may be purchased at public auctions held several times each year and on websites such as GovDeals. ADECA transfers the funds collected from auctions and sales, minus expenses, to the state's General Fund.



Deputies from an Alabama sheriff's department search through boxes for surplus items to assist their department in fulfilling law enforcement duties. Pallets holding laptop computers appear in foreground.

Workforce Development Division



Workforce Development programs help Alabamians advance to new careers after employment layoffs

The news came unexpectedly on Sept. 11, 2013: International Paper was closing its mill in Courtland in 2014, meaning 1,100 workers at Lawrence County's largest employer would lose their jobs.

While nothing could undo the bad news, ADECA's Workforce Development Division and other state agencies provided a number of services to help mitigate the impact on affected employees.

Beginning the day of the International Paper announcement, WDD took steps to deliver assistance by organizing group employee meetings. Conducted by ADECA's Rapid Response Team, each meeting assists employees with the transition out of their old jobs and connects them with longer-term assistance from the network of 45 Alabama Career Centers.

Workers facing a layoff can look to the stories of Cheryl McNaughton and Cynthia Stallworth for encouragement. McNaughton and Stallworth were longtime employees of WestPoint Home's



Gerald Watts of the Greenville Career Center helped Cynthia Stallworth and Cheryl McNaughton, all pictured in top photo from left, to take advantage of assistance available through the Career Center after they lost their jobs when WestPoint Home's Plant shut down.

Greenville plant when the facility closed in 2011, eliminating about 190 jobs.

"My first thought was, 'Oh my gosh, what are we going to do now?'" McNaughton said of the day employees learned the news. "Every bit of my salary those last months went toward my home and two vehicles. It was tough. We struggled at my house."

When an employer like WestPoint notifies ADECA of a large-scale layoff or closing, WDD's Rapid Response Unit assembles a multi-agency team that travels to the jobsite to inform workers of the range of available services, including unemployment compensation, health-insurance assistance, job placement and retraining services.

"Rapid Response had a lot of good information in a folder that we could refer back to — stuff like how to file for unemployment, different resources to help with finding employment, child care, and writing a resume," McNaughton said.

Following the group meeting with employees, Alabama Career Center staff members take the lead in securing further assistance and services for workers. In addition to unemployment insurance and other benefits, career centers can help with the preparation of a résumé and the improvement of job interviewing skills. Job seekers also may be able to use the center's computers, telephone and fax machines and may participate in financial planning and stress management workshops.

Career Center staff is familiar with the local labor market and can arrange for job training or additional education necessary to qualify for careers in industries that are growing and in need of skilled workers. ADECA provides funding for Individual Training Accounts that dislocated workers may use to purchase training from technical schools, community colleges or other approved providers.

The Alabama Career Center in Greenville provided a helping hand to McNaughton and Stallworth. Center staff member Gerald Watts

provided a "friendly face" who McNaughton said helped them stay positive, set goals for re-employment and take advantage of all the available assistance.

"He gave us that extra push that we needed. He was encouraging, and everybody here has been very helpful," McNaughton said.

Because some of the plant's operations moved to Pakistan, WestPoint Home workers qualified for assistance under the Trade Readjustment Act, which pays for training assistance for



Johnathan Williams, above and on next page, turned his layoff into a positive with the help of Alabama Career Centers by obtaining a college degree and special training.

those whose jobs move overseas. The pair applied for and received assistance to return to school and obtain bachelor's degrees to help them be better qualified for a new career.

Both returned to school in 2012 and are on track to graduate in the near future.

Stallworth returned to Concordia College in Selma, where she previously earned an associate's degree, to obtain a bachelor's degree. She is an honor student majoring in general business and scheduled to graduate in 2014.

McNaughton is a straight-A student at Faulkner University in Montgomery where she is earning her degree to be better qualified for human resources positions.

"I think it was a blessing in disguise to take advantage of the assistance they offered," Stallworth said. Once they finish school, the Greenville Career Center will help them find new jobs, "but these two will have no problem getting hired," Watts said.

No matter where layoffs and closings occur in Alabama, the uncertainty and anxiety are the same.

With a wife, baby son, and a steady job at Garcy Corp. in Piedmont, Johnathan Williams thought he had it made in 2011. Starting with Garcy in 2009 as a temporary worker, the company soon hired Williams as a fulltime forklift operator.

"Then we were hit with bad news out of nowhere," Williams said. "Garcy was closing its doors. We were told the parent company was consolidating locations across the country and we were one of the sites to be closed."

"My first thought was about my family and what I was going to do to support them."

Williams participated in group employee meetings with the Rapid Response Team and the Cheaha Career Center. At the meeting, Williams discovered that he was eligible for Workforce Investment Act assistance that could help him go to school to learn a new career.

"This meeting was a life changer for me," he said. "As I sat there listening to them discussing what WIA involved and how it could be applied to our situation, I had already decided the best route for me to take."

"Within a couple of days I was sitting in the Cheaha Career Center, with the direction of [the career center's] Michael Hunt, beginning my paperwork for WIA with college in my near future."

Williams last day at Garcy was May 29, 2012. He started in the electronics engineering program at Gadsden State Community College the next day.

In April 2013, the team traveled to conduct their experiment aboard the aircraft that simulates zero gravity. Soon after, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory selected Williams and another team member for a 10-week internship at the lab in Pasadena, Calif.

"It was a difficult decision to leave my family for that long, but knowing this could be a once in



a lifetime opportunity and a major stepping stone for my professional career, I could not turn it down," Williams said.

Williams completed his associate's degree in August 2013 and plans to continue his education in the University of Alabama's Mechanical Engineering distance learning program.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to everyone that led me in the direction I have come, from the Rapid Response team to everyone at the Cheaha Career Center and Gadsden State Community College," he said.

In 2013, 5,440 Alabama workers received assistance from WDD's Rapid Response team, and 11,166 Alabamians received job-training assistance through Workforce Investment Act programs administered by ADECA. The U.S. Department of Labor allocates the WIA funds to Alabama.

Support Services



The ADECA divisions that manage grants and other programs that serve Alabama communities and residents rely upon other sections and units that work in the background. These support staff members ensure compliance with laws and regulations, financial accountability and provide other services necessary for the proper administration of ADECA programs.

With millions of taxpayer dollars involved, ADECA takes extensive steps to make sure all funds are accounted for properly. The **Financial Services Section** handles budgeting, purchasing, payroll and property management duties for the department. The section makes certain all documentation is in order prior to disbursement of grant funds and it monitors staff travel expenses to ensure strict compliance with all requirements. The detailed financial documentation required and maintained by the Financial Services Section keeps ADECA programs and staff in full compliance with federal and state laws.

The attorneys in ADECA's **Legal Section** provide guidance to employees, program managers and grant recipients to ensure that all standards, legal and ethical are followed. They also review all legal documents and contracts to which ADECA is a party, represent the department in any litigation and monitor regulation or legislation changes that affect ADECA grants or programs.

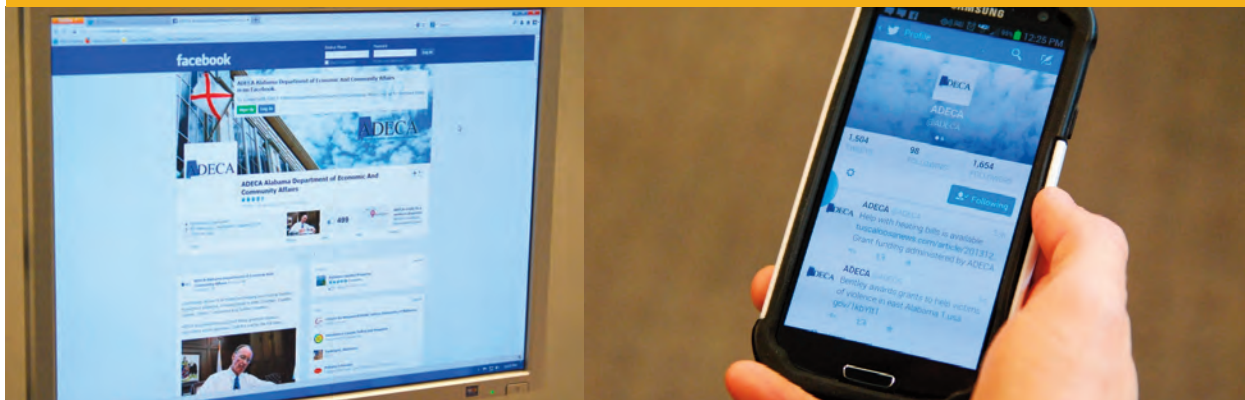
Each grant program has specific laws, regulations and guidelines that must be followed.

ADECA's **Audit Section** ensures that rules are understood and dollars properly accounted for by conducting training for grant recipients and their auditors. Remaining in compliance keeps current projects and programs running smoothly and assures that recipients can remain eligible for future funding.

Computers, phone and e-mail are necessary communication tools for a modern office and the **Information Services Section** is responsible for ensuring that these tools are available and working efficiently. ISS includes the Geographic Information Systems Development unit, which provides data mapping services and products, and the section maintains computer servers that are required to keep ADECA's website operational.

Because ADECA programs could not operate effectively without qualified and knowledgeable staff, the **Human Resources** section helps ADECA managers find the best candidates for staff positions. They develop and update job descriptions and work with each division and the Alabama State Personnel Department to ensure that job candidates have the needed skills. They also handle transfers and promotions, provide guidance to supervisors regarding employee evaluations and help educate staff about employee benefits.

Communications and Information



Communications and Information keeps public informed of ADECA programs and activities

Because social media is becoming an integral part of everyday life for people across the globe, ADECA's Communications and Information Division is using some of these new media tools to reach a growing segment of Alabama residents.

In 2013, ADECA launched a Facebook page to expand the availability of information regarding grants and other ADECA activities. The goal is to keep the public better informed by highlighting programs, providing links to additional information about ADECA programs, distributing news releases and event notifications, and sharing photos and videos of ADECA activities. CID supplements Facebook with an active ADECA Twitter account and the two outlets have attracted nearly 2,500 followers combined.

Many news media representatives take advantage of ADECA's social media presence, using it to collect additional information for stories or to generate story ideas in their newsrooms.

"We use social media pretty frequently here to get new ideas and sometimes to find pictures to go along with our stories," said Greg Phillips, a reporter with the *Dothan Eagle* newspaper in southeast Alabama. "Being able to find out more information through Facebook and Twitter is so much more convenient than trying to sift through some websites that are often cluttered or just confusing."

Phillips said he and his colleagues use the ADECA Facebook page and its Twitter feed to find more information on grant awards and to find pictures for local coverage.

"I'm new to using ADECA's Facebook page, but it has a lot of good information and it's great to have it appear in my newsfeed as opposed to searching around the web for this information," said Phillips. "In this day and age it's essential to have something like this to help keep people better informed."

ADECA recently redesigned its website to be more user-friendly. The site links social media outlets and serves as an archive of background information to support social media feeds. The site registers 300 hits daily.

CID relies on new media and more traditional news distribution methods to ensure that the department is open and accountable for the state and federal funds entrusted to it. Grant announcements are posted online and news releases are distributed to media. CID also provides notification to Legislators of grant awards in their districts and answers hundreds of questions annually about ADECA programs.

CID's Graphic Arts Unit provides additional support for ADECA programs by designing and printing handbooks, brochures, reports and other materials. The General Services Unit processes mail and parcels, delivers interoffice correspondence and maintains department vehicles.

The CID director serves as Alabama's liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau, helping to record municipal boundary changes, supporting the population estimate process and responding to Census-related inquiries throughout the year.

ADECA observes 30th anniversary

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs marked its 30th anniversary with a celebration on Oct. 2, 2013 that included Gov. Robert Bentley, Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey, former ADECA directors and employees, state and local officials and others.

Bentley and Ivey credited ADECA programs with a major role in helping Alabamians to find or maintain employment. Grants from ADECA have provided infrastructure improvements to help new and expanding businesses create jobs, and to help ensure Alabamians have proper training to fill the available jobs.

Bentley also lauded ADECA's efforts to help restore the many Alabama communities severely damaged during the tornadoes of April 2011. After the tornadoes struck, Bentley created, and placed under ADECA's umbrella, the Long Term Community Recovery program to help the affected communities.

"You helped rebuild towns like Hackleburg after the tornadoes. You help us create jobs. You help us strengthen communities," Bentley said during the ceremony conducted in the Hall of Flags at the Alabama Center for Commerce. "I want to let you know how much I appreciate your work."

During the ceremony, ADECA recognized 13 current employees as "charter members," working at the department since the day of its creation. The Legislature established ADECA with a bill that Governor George Wallace signed into law in early 1983 to provide a central location for managing grants and other programs to improve Alabama communities and regions.

An open house followed the ceremony and refreshments were served, including a 30th anniversary birthday cake. Former directors, past employees and visitors toured various divisions. A video presentation and a picture board recounted past years and the department's history.

The legislation creating ADECA consolidated five agencies or offices: the Alabama Department of Energy, the Law Enforcement Planning Agency, the Governor's Office of Highway and Traffic Safety, the State Planning and Federal Programs office and the office of Employment and Training.



ADECA Director Jim Byard, Jr. left gathered former directors for a commemorative photograph. Pictured are, left to right top row, Edgar Welden, Ed Gardner, Robert Lunsford, John Harrison, and David Hooks. Middle row, Anne Payne, Dewayne Freeman, Nick Bailey and Fred Braswell III. Bottom row, Alice McKinney, Doni Ingram and Norm Davis. At right: Byard accepts proclamation presented by Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

2012-2013 FEDERAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Highlight indicates ARRA programs

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program - ARRA	334,922	323,448
State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program - ARRA	558,818	573,154
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT		
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	26,510,304	26,502,443
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	1,936,544	1,924,012
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	1,133,722	1,130,695
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR		
Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning	68,928	67,456
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
Sexual Assault Services Formula Program	192,391	192,477
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	349,928	699,842
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention_Allocation to States	400,871	402,976
Title V_Delinquency Prevention Program	57,488	57,571
Crime Victim Assistance	5,811,735	5,816,094
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	2,222,287	2,222,487
Violence Against Women Formula Grants - ARRA	4,976	8,871
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	221,943	223,404
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	70,492	79,619
Project Safe Neighborhoods	70,671	70,671
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	259,856	259,856
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	9,053	4,542,083
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	77,970	78,869
Anti-Gang Initiative	235,601	235,558
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program - ARRA	300,200	312,457
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR		
WIA Adult Program	13,139,916	13,170,452
WIA Youth Activities	13,548,386	13,533,200
WIA Dislocated Workers	739,289	742,785
WIA Dislocated Workers - ARRA	92,811	94,155,811
Program of Competitive Grants for Worker Training and Placement	1,450,438	1,461,393
High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors - ARRA		
WIA National Emergency Grants	1,486,608	1,503,414
WIA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants	13,972,263	13,975,998
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Recreational Trails Program	1,123,174	1,055,740
Capital Assistance to States - Intercity Passenger Rail Service	5,650	5,650
State and Community Highway Safety	3,585,758	3,511,438
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants	84,217	84,217
Occupant Protection Incentive Grants	859,342	892,470
Safety Belt Performance Grants	69,447	69,447
State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants	509,655	475,655

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Receipts	Expenditures
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION		
Appalachian Area Development	558,277	558,277
Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects	131,219	132,140
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION		
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (value of property - not cash received)	16,266,080	18,273,891
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY		
Petroleum Violation Escrow	4,122	398,931
State Energy Program	2,350,419	2,349,632
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	2,126,319	2,162,110
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons - ARRA	1,391,529	1,449,450
State Energy Program Special Projects	233,535	232,394
Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Research, Development and Analysis - ARRA	260,977	260,924
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) - ARRA	441,774	441,870
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	45,055,357	45,114,159
Community Services Block Grant	11,930,723	11,958,623
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants for Battered Women's Shelters	1,432,883	1,497,482
Community Services Block Grant - ARRA		(236,654)
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	209,774	210,161
National Dam Safety Program	50,444	46,628
Cooperating Technical Partners	4,437,907	4,435,177
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS	178,376,994	185,585,254



Gov. Bentley addresses group in Hall of Flags area of Alabama Center for Commerce building during ADECA's 30th Anniversary observance in October 2013.

ADECA Connections

ADECA	(334) 242-5100
<i>Director's Office</i>	(334) 242-5591
<i>Audit Section</i>	(334) 242-5195
<i>Communications and Information Division (CID)</i>	(334) 242-5525
<i>Community and Economic Development Division (CED)</i>	
(Main Number)	(334) 242-5370
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	(334) 242-0492
Emergency Solutions Unit	(334) 353-0288
Community Services Block Grant Unit (CSBG)	(334) 353-4909
Appalachian Regional Commission Unit (ARC)	(334) 242-5469
Delta Regional Authority	(334) 242-5370
Recreation and Conservation Unit	(334) 242-5483
Broadband Initiative Unit (ConnectingALABAMA)	(334) 353-5882
<i>Energy Division (ED)</i>	(334) 242-5292
<i>Financial Services Section</i>	(334) 242-5729
<i>Human Resources Section</i>	(334) 242-5251
<i>Information Services Section</i>	(334) 242-5529
<i>Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS)</i>	(334) 242-5897
<i>Legal Section</i>	(334) 242-5255
<i>Long-Term Community Recovery Unit</i>	(334) 353-3719
<i>Office of Water Resources Division (OWR)</i>	(344) 242-4991
<i>Workforce Development Division (WDD)</i>	(334) 242-5300
<i>Surplus Property Division (SPD)</i>	(334) 284-0577
Eva Unit	(256) 796-4434



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